

1-13. (CANCELED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A locking device for the fixation of a lid (1) ~~to an opening (8)~~ in an opening of a pressure container with at least two locking segments (5) displaceable at right angles to ~~[[an]]~~ the axis of the opening ~~[[(8)]]~~, which segments (5) bear protrusions (6) and groove-like recesses along their circumference, which in the locked position cooperate with recesses (7) and protrusions along the brim (8) of the opening ~~[[(8)]]~~, whereby the displacement actuator ~~[[(4)]]~~ of the segments (5) is linked to the segments (5) and to at least one point of application that is on the lid (1) or on a member (3) connected to the lid (1);

wherein the segments (5) that are arranged in the direction of the circumference of the lid (1) are pivotably supported on the lid (1) by a swivel arm (16), separate from the displacement actuator ~~[[(4)]]~~, being interposed, which swivel arm (16) in turn is pivotably connected to the segments (5).

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the displacement actuator of the segments (5) is each made up of at least one linear actuator (4) per segment (5).

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the points of application of the displacement actuator ~~[[(4)]]~~ on the segments (5) and/or on the lid (1) or the member (3) connected with the lid (1) are designed as hinge bearings (10, 11) comprising bearing pins being pivotable about at least one axis.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the swivel arm (16) is connected to the lid (1) via a rotary or swivel drive (33).

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the pivotable support of the segments (5) on the lid (1) comprises at least one pivotable shaft (15) or pivot axle (14) extending at right angles to the displacement movement of the segments (5).

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the segments (5) are connected to the lid (1) to be adjustable in an axial direction of the pivot axis (14) in ~~[[a]]~~ the height direction.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the axle (15) or swivel axis (14) is supported on the lid (1) on at least one

bearing (22) being moveable at right angles to the swivel axis (14) and fixable in this adjusted position.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the axle (15) or swivel axis (14) carries a bushing (17) parallel to the axis, in which the segments (5) are pivotable and in a direction of the axis height adjustably fixable.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 21, wherein the segments (5) are supported pivotably and height adjustable on the bushing (17) with in axial direction operative springs (20) being interposed.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the segments (5) comprise at least two recesses or bearing eyes for the reception of locking members or locking pins.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the lid (1) and the segments (5) linked to the lid (1) are mounted to a support (28) to be pivotable about an axis intersecting or crossing the axis (30) of the opening [(8)], the support (28) together with the lid (1) being pivotable about an axis (29) extending outside of the opening and perpendicular to the axis (30) of the opening.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The locking device according to claim 24, wherein the lid (1) is connected to the support (28) by a spring rod (31) having an adjustable position and being eccentrically arranged between the lid (1) and the support (28).

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking device according to claim 14, wherein the actuating members (9) of a position switch (26) are provided, which actuating members (9) immerse in annular grooves (7) at right angles to the brim (8) of the opening [(8)].

27. (NEW) A locking device for fixing of a lid (1) in an opening of a pressure container, the device comprising:

at least two locking segments (5), each having an inner surface and an outer surface with protrusions (6) and recesses;

at least two actuating units (4) communicate with the inner surface of each of the at least two locking segments (5), each of the at least two actuating units

(4) is coupled, via a hinge bearing (10), to an actuating rod (3) which is centrally supported by the lid (1); and

each locking segment (5) is pivotably coupled, via swivel arms (16), to a pivotable shaft (15) which is rotatably fixed to the lid (1) such that rotation of the pivotable shaft (15) biases the respective locking segment (5) radially outwardly at right angles to a central axis of the opening from an unlocked position to a locked position in which the protrusions (6) of the locking segment (5) engage grooves (7) in a brim (8) of the pressure container.

28. (NEW) The locking device according to claim 27, wherein the swivel arms (16) are fixed at one end to the pivotable shaft (15) and an opposed end to a bushing (17), a bolt (19) axially secures the locking segment (5) to the bushing (17) such that the locking segment (5), the bushing (17) and the pivotable shaft (15) are axially parallel.

29. (NEW) The locking device according to claim 28, wherein a cup spring (20) is supported coaxially with the bushing (17) and the bolt (19), between the locking segment (5) and the bushing (17), and axially biases the locking segment (5) with respect to pivotable shaft (15).